

Application No. 09/636,286

RD-27791

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7 to 14, 18 to 19 and 21 to 25 are pending.

Withdrawal of the objections to the specification and the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and previous 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejections are noted and appreciated.

1, 7 to 14, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The December 31, 2003 Final Rejection states:

The specification does not appear to provide support for the word "succeeding" as stated in claims 1 (lines 7, 15, 18), 7 (lines 2, 3, 5, 7), 10 (line 2), 11 (line 2), 12 (line 2), 13 (line 2), 14 (line 2), and 18 (lines 7, 15, 17).

The amendments address the Final Rejection statement and change the claims back to the supported "second experiment" terminology.

The Final Rejection also states:

Written basis is provided for a second experimental space (page 1, line 23), but not for the broadly mentioned succeeding experimental space in the claims.

The Amendment only adopts the suggestion of the PTO that "basis is provided for a second experimental space." The Amendment only clarifies the claims in accord with the PTO suggestion. The Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Thus, entry of the Amendment is requested under 37 CFR §1.116.

Claim 18 is an allowable generic claim. Hence, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn for the reasons specified in Applicant's February 20, 2003 Amendment. See MPEP 809.04. Claims 21 to 22 depend from claim 18 and should also be allowable.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 7 to 14, 18 to 19 and 21 to 25 are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary in order to place this application in condition for allowance, he is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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